Newsletter

Countdown to Wellington

By Jamie Ferguson, IHTSDO Management Board Chair

Here in the northern hemisphere, our summertime often includes a break from the hectic pace of the rest of the year. To some extent this was the case at IHTSDO, but everyone was very busy with the July International Release and many active work items!

The focus of a number of team members now has shifted to the upcoming Business Meetings and SNOMED CT Expo in Wellington, New Zealand. For some of us this will be a long way to travel, while others will welcome a shorter trip to this important annual event. Our Kiwi hosts are planning to put on an amazing event in a beautiful location. Some of the new features like the conference

mobile app and SNApp, our first-ever hackathon, are particularly exciting. I truly look forward to seeing as many of the informative and engaging presentations as possible and this opportunity to meet with SNOMED CT experts from around the world.

Your Management Board, in addition to its on-going review and oversight of financial and operational measures, has focused on the agenda of the Organisation in pursuit of its strategic goals including scale, growth, and product development. Looking forward, with our strategy firmly in place we also plan to establish an annual review process for it. Many of you may be aware that members of the General Assembly and the Management Board have begun to engage in a review of our approach to governance, which will be an additional focus of discussions.

Finally, look out for some exciting changes to the newsletter starting in the next edition. Watch for a more modern format, a new name and more!

In this issue:

IHTSDO in China: CHITEC 2016

By Liara Tutina, Customer Relations Executive Asia and Pacific

IHTSDO attended the 11th China Health Information Technology Exchange Conference & Exhibition (CHITEC 2016) in Nanjing, the People's Republic of China. The event was organised by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (China's Ministry of Health) and gathered over 3,000 health IT professionals, government officials and vendors from China and across the world. The conference program provided an overview of the country's eHealth vision and achievements across a range of domains including Big Data, internet +, genomics and other areas. IHTSDO and China's Centre for Health Statistics and Information of NHFPC held a meeting to open a dialogue about collaboration with regards to use of SNOMED CT in China P.R.

IHTSDO also attended the WHO/Asia eHealth Information Network side meeting at CHITEC 2016. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministries of Health from China P.R. and the South East Asia Including Thailand, the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. We provided input on how to improve interoperability and standardisation within countries and the role of clinical standards and SNOMED CT in supporting its achievement.

IHTSDO's CEO Don Sweete presents at the event

North American Health IT/Digital Health Weeks

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

IHTSDO is proud to be a supporting organization for both the US and Canadian Health IT/Digital health weeks. This quarter and next, both the US and Canada have dedicated weeks to recognize the achievements made so far in advancing health IT/digital health and to encourage industry and policy stakeholders to keep up the momentum.
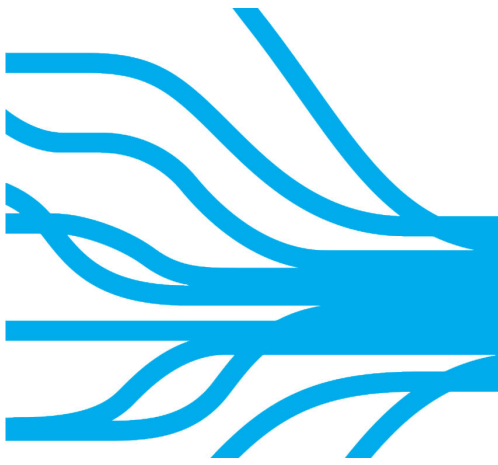
US: September 26-30, 2016. Public and private healthcare constituents work in partnership to educate industry and policy stakeholders on the value of health IT for the US healthcare system. Although IHTSDO did not participate directly in the many events this past week, we were pleased to be a supporting organization at the US National Health IT Week.

Canada: November 14-20.

This year's Digital Health Week is about Canadians' healthcare expectations, and the role of digital health. A growing number of Canadians are experiencing the benefits of digital health, there is a lot to celebrate about the difference being made today. IHTSDO is participating in the Partnership Conference and is a supporting organization for Digital Health Week. #ThinkDigitalHealth.

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Expo 2016

Trusted, Actionable, Health Information
October 27-28 | Wellington New Zealand

A Warm Wellington Welcome for October 2016

By Alastair Kenworthy, Ministry of Health (New Zealand)

In New Zealand, we're excited to be hosting the October Business Meeting and Expo for the first time. With IHTSDO now numbering 28 member countries, we thought we'd better take our chance and offer to put on the annual 'do' for delegates in 2016. We were a little apprehensive when the opportunity was presented towards the end of 2014, but we quickly determined that this would be - quote - doable. The recent superb October events in Montevideo, Amsterdam and in previous years showed just what can be achieved, and we hope to emulate that success in Wellington. New Zealand is a safe and friendly place to visit, especially in the year following a Rugby World Cup win. The Rio Olympics proved that we're also one of the shotputting nations of the world. I don't know what that says about the average Kiwi on the street.

Delegates will see some new things this year. For the first time the Expo will include a hackathon, which we hope will introduce SNOMED CT to a wider community of designers, developers and agents for change, as well as showcase the real power of the terminology as an essential ingredient for personal health apps, clinical apps and clinical decision support knowledge bases. We know for certain that 'snappers' will find SNOMED CT fun to play with.
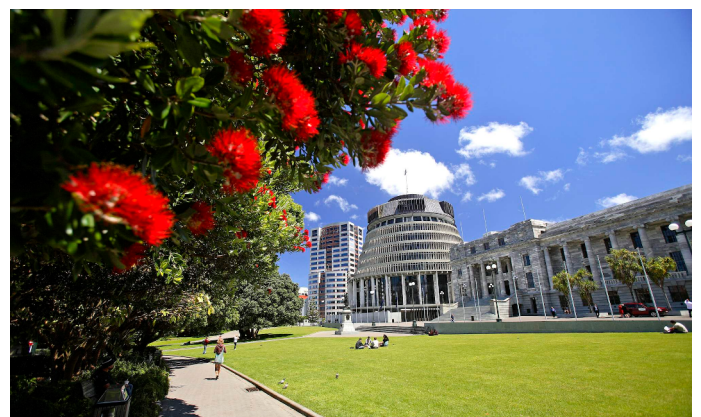
We very much look forward to welcoming everyone to New Zealand. Associate Minister of Health Hon Peter Dunne is hosting a networking function for delegates at the iconic Beehive building at Parliament. At the other end of town, Museum of New Zealand is the waterfront venue for the Business Meeting and Expo. Te Papa is easy walking distance to hotels and the entertainment district (we almost hesitate to say). We expect that conversations will spill over into the many cafes, bars and restaurants that give Wellington its unique flavour and tourist appeal. For those still with energy in the morning, the hills that were the location for a world mountain running championship are right by the harbour for morning joggers.

Wellington is also famous for its film industry and we're excited that Weta Workshop will provide entertainment at the Awards Dinner. This will be 'SNOMED CT meets the Lord of the Rings.'

Minister of Health, Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman and Director-General of Health, Chai Chuah will deliver keynote addresses on the opening day of the Expo. As we launch into a new world of digital health there is no more important technology than SNOMED CT.

We're sure you'll enjoy your time with us and, when you reflect on your time in New Zealand, you will agree *Ahakoa he iti he pounamu* - "although it is small, it is greenstone (a treasure)." I should also say that any future host Member can be assured of working with a fantastically capable, talented and helpful team at IHTSDO! It could not have been a better experience over the past nearly two years in preparation.

The Beehive, Parliament

Principles/Guidance for Linking SNOMED CT and GS1

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

A key piece of work resulting from the new Collaboration Agreement between IHTSDO and GS1 (signed in April 2016), is the development of guidance/principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs that can be applied at the national/local level.

An Expert Group from countries who have a national requirement for this work has been working closely together to assist IHTSDO and GS1 to move this forward, under the direction of a joint Steering Group. The following purpose/scope statement has been agreed:

"The key purpose of this joint work is to develop international guidance/principles for linking SNOMED CT and GS1 GTINs (Global Trade Item Number). The primary area of focus is Medicinal Products with the purpose of enabling interoperability between clinical data of medicinal products to the data required for supply chain and regulation, e.g. by reading bar codes.

The guidance/principles will be based on best practice and input from stakeholders who have already undertaken this linkage work or related work. The decision to undertake this work is based on feedback from IHTSDO Member countries as well as GS1 member organisations, stating that such guidance is needed to ensure a consistent approach and also avoid duplication of effort.

At this time, it is not envisaged to develop or enrich a global database — each country has a different approach to terminology for medicinal products. Medicinal Products are different in each country, thus GTIN allocation is mostly on a country basis. Medical devices are excluded at this time, but it may be that the work could be further adapted to cover this area though it would then include other stakeholder groups."

The Expert Group has also identified key Use Cases that are providing the basis for the development of the work. The Use Case document will be made available in October 2016. The first draft of the Principles/Guidance is currently being commented on by the Expert Group, after which the Steering Group will review. The aim is to initially make the draft Principles/Guidelines available as DSTU to then enable updates based on usage — the draft will be available in December 2016.

For information, see:

http://www.ihtsdo.org/about-ihtsdo/partnerships/gs1. If you are interested in finding out more or want to use the draft Principles and provide feedback, please contact info@ihtsdo.org with SNOMED CT/GTINs in the subject line.
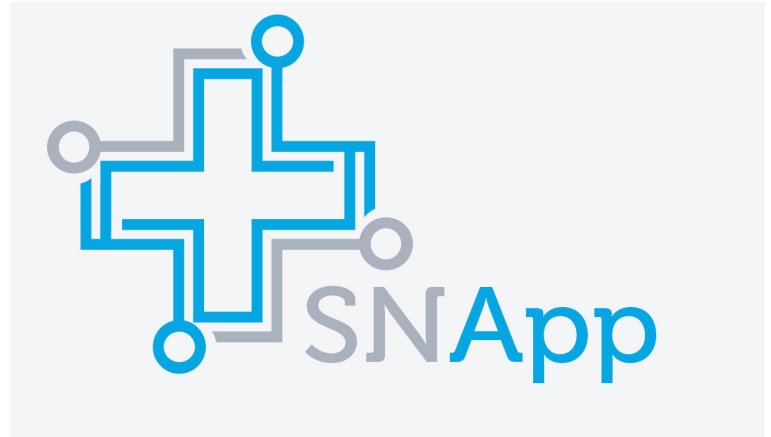
How will you SNApp? IHTSDO's first hackathon

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

One of the exciting new features of this year's SNOMED CT Expo is SNApp, IHTSDO's first-ever hackathon. Using SNOMED for clinical decision support is the event's theme, and participants will be challenged to design and build a rich and engaging clinical decision support app or to create the knowledge base materials for clinical decision support. This high-energy event will be a highlight of the Expo and will encourage participants and delegates to think outside the box and create some innovative solutions. There will be prizes for the first to third position teams, and delegates at the Expo will vote for their team/solution of choice.

New Starter at IHTSDO

By Clare Gibbs, Head of Human Resources

Steve Marchant joined the IHTSDO Technical Services Team in September 2016 as Senior Project Manager.

He has a background in software development, enterprise systems design and project

management and has worked on many projects across a number of sectors including Healthcare, Energy, Banking, Education, Transport and Defence. Steve's most recent consulting clients have been the NHS, Thomson Reuters and the UK Central Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

Steve is a certified PRINCE2 and TOGAF practitioner and in his spare time enjoys snowboarding, swimming, sound engineering and occasionally trekking, mountaineering and caving.

IHTSDO All-Staff Meeting & Employee Awards

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

IHTSDO recently held an all staff meeting in London September 12-13. Since everyone works remotely, this is the one opportunity each year to come together, engage in some cross-functional team activities and get some face time! The two days were spent primarily in workshops. There was also a special awards presentation for the IHTSDO Employee Awards. There were two awards

presented this year: Star Performer and Team of the Year, both are selected from employee nominations.

Star Performer: Lesley MacNeil

This award is given to an IHTSDO

employee who goes above and beyond to achieve a positive outcome for IHTSDO, supported and encouraged other team members, exemplified our organizational values and made an extra effort towards personal development. Congratulations Lesley!

Team of the Year: Content Team

This award is given to a team who represented IHTSDO principles, were actively supportive of each other, consistently focused on excellence and achieved greatness. Congratulations Content Team!

SNOMED CT Implementation Spotlight:
SNOMED CT Implementation in Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen University, Thailand – A Case Study

Srinagarind is a 1000 beds university quaternary hospital with over than 800,000 Outpatient Department visits and 40,000 Inpatient Department visits per year. It serves as the primary referral centre in northeast Thailand and is the leader in Tropical Medicine research in Asia.

In 2014, while replacing the legacy HIS with the HIS Enterprise suite from Telstra Health, the management decided to take the lead in Thailand by introducing SNOMED CT for physician-driven clinical coding. A unique SNOMED browser was specially developed based on the requirements of its clinical users. Users quickly and simply choose the appropriate terms, browsing the hierarchical structure of SNOMED graphically and making a selection, and additionally adding the corresponding cross-mapped ICD-10 WHO terms (provided by IHTDSO), all within the same page. With this approach, laterality and specificity are now codified. Additionally, the data can be aggregated and traversed retrospectively, with the help of special reports.

This system was rolled out as part of the overall fast-track implementation, the total project being completed in 15 months; an estimated total of 500 clinicians are using the system. Part of the success of this project stems from the fact that the system was developed bespoke based on the user requirements and the hospital management had a firm grip over the implementation and adoption process. With this, they laid the foundation for their "Think Big, Start Small" approach to ensuring that wide-scale semantic data capture could be implemented and are considering the next steps – namely the codification of certain clinical documentation - to follow suit.

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Tooling Update

By Rory Davidson, Head of Technical Services

IHTSDO's suite of tools has grown this quarter with one new addition that deserves mention and notice. At the time of writing, our team is in the middle of migrating away from SIRS. SIRS has served IHTSDO very well over the last 3 years to provide a way for external stakeholders to request SNOMED CT content additions or changes. We would like to thank the National Library of Medicine who have very kindly hosted and supported this for IHTSDO over the three years. Now is the time to evolve and move. And so, we are happy to announce the arrival of the SNOMED CT Content Request Service (CRS) which replaces SIRS, providing similar functionality as well as much tighter integration into our growing terminology tooling platform. It has had a considerable redesign and moves the community towards more efficient turnaround and a higher quality of content requests. More information can be found here: http://snomed.org/CRS-Guide.

If you would like any further information on the service or any other IHTSDO tool, please contact tooling@ihtsdo.org.

October Conference: Registration Reminder

By Fleur McBriar, Events & Business Support (Corporate Services)

As mentioned in many of the items in this newsletter, the forthcoming Business Meeting and SNOMED CT Expo 2016 in Wellington is set to be an exciting conference that breaks a lot of new ground! We hope to see as many of our Community of Practice members as possible there, and so we would like to remind everyone that registration for both events is compulsory for all in-person attendees, and it will close at **23:00 UTC on Sunday 16th October 2016**. This deadline will be strictly upheld and no onsite registrations are available, so please make sure you complete both processes if you plan to attend.

Details of how to register can be found via the following links:

October 2016 Business Meeting

&

SNOMED CT Expo 2016

The IHTSDO Newsletter provides news and features from IHTSDO, delivering SNOMED CT. If you have comments on the editorial content, then please contact the editor, Fleur McBriar, at fmc@ihtsdo.org

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